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CROOK AND WILLINGTON

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1953



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health—FENWICK LISHMAN, M.B., B.S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—A. CUMMINGS, M.R.S.I., M.I.P.C.

Deputy Sanitary Inspector—

J. B. KELLY, D.P.A. Dunelm, D.M.A., A.R.S.I.

To the Chairman and Members of
Crook and Willington U.D.C.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the health of your area for the year 1953. A separate section of the Report compiled by the Chief Sanitary Inspector deals with general sanitary conditions in the area during the same period.

Once again I have to thank all the Council Officials for their help, especially Mr. Omand, Mr. Coates, Mr. Hall and Mr. Cummings, and must thank you also, ladies and gentlemen, for your continued interest and encouragement.

I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FENWICK LISHMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Population (Registrar General's Estimate - Mid Year)	...	...	...	27,270
Area (In Acres)	...	...	...	15,476
Number of Inhabited Houses (mid 1953)	...	...	...	9,001
Rateable Value (mid 1953)	...	...	...	£110,900
Product of Penny Rate (mid 1953)	...	...	...	£405

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS:

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	373	193	180
Illegitimate	20	13	7
	<hr/> 393	<hr/> 206	<hr/> 187
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	14.41
General Birth Rate (England and Wales)	...	...	15.50

STILL BIRTHS:

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	15	9	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 6
Rate per 1,000 (live and still)	...	...	14.96

DEATHS:

	Total	Males	Females
	342	195	147
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	12.54
Death Rate (England and Wales)	...	...	11.40

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:-

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	11	6	5
Illegitimate	2	1	1
	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 6

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	33.08
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	...	27.99
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	...	5.09
Infantile Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	... ..	26.80
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	33
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	—

Table of Birth and Death Rates for the Past 5 Years.

Year	Death Rate	Infantile Death Rate under 1 year	Birth Rate
1949	12.98	47.19	16.23
1950	11.52	38.00	18.29
1951	13.52	65.98	14.32
1952	12.22	30.95	15.36
1953	12.54	33.08	15.50

CAUSES OF DEATHS

			Males	Females
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	...	4	3
2	Tuberculosis Other ..	...	1	0
3	Syphilitic Diseases...	...	0	0
4	Diphtheria ...	...	0	0
5	Whooping Cough ...	...	0	0
6	Meningococcal Infections ...	...	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	0	0
8	Measles ...	...	0	0
9	Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases		1	0
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	...	5	4
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	...	5	1
12	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms		23	11
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ..	...	0	2
14	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	...	0	2
15	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia ...	...	0	0
16	Diabetes ...	...	1	0
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	...	40	36
18	Coronary Disease, Angina ..	...	29	17
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	...	4	1
20	Other Heart Diseases ...	...	27	23
21	Other circulatory Diseases ...	...	8	4
22	Influenza ..	...	2	4
23	Pneumonia ...	...	5	3
24	Bronchitis ...	...	6	5
25	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System		2	2
26	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum ...	...	1	0
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, etc ...	...	2	2
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	4	1
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	...	3	0
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	...	0	1
31	Congenital Malformations ...	...	3	2
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	...	11	20
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	...	3	0
34	All Other Accidents ...	...	4	3
35	Suicide ...	...	1	0
36	Homicide and Operations of War ...	...	0	0
Total ...			195	147

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	45	45	—
Diphtheria	2	2	—
Measles	276	—	—
Whooping Cough	110	—	—
Pneumonia	32	—	8
Erysipelas	4	—	—
Food Poisoning	7	7	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Dysentery	2	—	—

The following Table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever during the past 5 years

YEAR	DIPHTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1949	19	—	102	—
1950	6	1	55	—
1951	5	—	54	—
1952	4	1	43	—
1953	2	—	45	—

NOTIFIED DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1953.

The following table gives the incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 yrs.	10 yrs.	15 yrs.	20 yrs.	35 yrs.	45 yrs.	65 yrs.	85 yrs.	Total
Scarlet Fever	2	3	—	3	7	23	6	—	1	—	—	—	45
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Measles	23	26	48	44	59	72	—	1	2	1	—	—	276
Whooping Cough	12	17	23	19	19	17	1	—	1	1	—	—	110
Pneumonia	4	5	2	1	1	3	1	—	4	1	5	5	32
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
Food Poisoning	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	7
Polio-myelitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0		-		-		-		-
1	-	-	2	1	-	-		
5		-		1		-		
15	1	2	1		-	-	-	-
25	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
35	2	1	-		-	-		-
45	2		-	1	1	1	-	-
55	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
65 & Up	1	1	-	1	2	1	1	-
Total	8	7	3	5	4	3	1	

**Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on Register at
31st December, 1953.**

Pulmonary			Non Pulmonary			Total Cases
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
152	122	274	102	122	224	498

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

Year	New Cases				Deaths				No. on Register at end of Year									
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary							
	Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total							
1949	12	13	25	4	4	8	4	9	13	—	1	1	125	102	227	95	114	209
1950	15	12	27	2	—	2	2	5	7	—	1	1	138	109	247	97	113	210
1951	10	4	14	2	—	2	9	3	12	1	—	1	139	110	249	98	113	211
1952	11	12	23	2	4	6	2	4	6	—	—	—	148	118	266	100	117	217
1953	8	7	15	3	5	8	4	3	7	1	—	1	152	122	274	102	122	224

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in resuming the practice of submitting separate Annual Reports on the sanitary conditions of your area.

My thanks are extended to the staff of the Health Department for their assistance in making 1953 a year of satisfactory progress and to the Members of the Council for their support throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

ARNOLD CUMMINGS,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT

(1) WATER SUPPLY:

The Durham County Water Board are the principal suppliers of water in this area and the vast majority of houses in the area are connected to their mains. No houses are supplied by means of stand pipes but a few isolated farms and cottages are dependent upon well supplies. A typical analysis of a mains supply is as follows:-

Physical Examination.	Waskerley.	Tunstall.
Colour Hazen Units	28 - 75	40
Turbidity	Slight	Slight
Odour	None	None
p H Value	6.5 - 6.7	6.7

General Chemical Examination	Parts per million.	
Total Solids	50 - 100	120
Suspended Solids	Trace	Trace
Hardness as Ca CO ₃		
Carbonate hardness	Nil - 1.8	18.6
Non-carbonate hardness	35.6 - 67.6	50.0
Total Hardness	35.6 - 67.6	68.6
Chlorides as Cl	10.0 - 12.0	11.5
Nitrates as N	0.31 - 0.48	0.13
Free and Saline Ammonia as N	0.026 - 0.233	0.05
Albumoid Ammonia as N	0.073 - 0.135	0.08
Oxygen Absorbed 4 hrs @ 27°C		
as O.	3.05 - 9.25	5.86

Bacteriological Examination of both supplies have proved to be of satisfactory quality when carried out by D.C.W.B.

During the year under review, 22 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratories, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 5 of these were found to be unsatisfactory but, after mains flushing and other treatment by the Water Board, further sampling produced satisfactory results. A considerable amount of work was involved in dealing with the unsatisfactory water supply at

Goodwell Field Cottages, Brancepeth. This supply originated in a spring below Weatherhill Farm in the Durham Rural Area whence it is pumped to a storage tank at West Brandon Farm in the Brandon and Byshottles Area. After prolonged sampling and treatment an improvement was obtained, largely due to the co-operation received from the National Coal Board and, in particular, their Area Scientist, Mr. Harold Nelson.

There is no evidence of plumbo solvent action in the water supplied to the area.

(2) VISITS:

The following is a summary of the visits undertaken by Officers of the Department during the year in pursuit of their official duties:-

(1) Housing Inspections:

(a) Structural defects	...	532 visits
(b) Housing Act inspections	...	596 visits
(2) W.C. Conversions	...	1086 visits
(3) Drainage	...	132 visits
(4) Water Supply	...	228 visits
(5) Dustbins	...	60 visits
(6) Ashclosets	...	148 visits
(7) Water Closets	...	148 visits
(8) Shops, Bakehouses and other Food Premises	...	441 visits
(9) Factories	...	81 visits

Total:- 3452

(3) NUISANCES & ETC.

The following table shows the principal nuisances dealt with during the year by means of notices:-

	Informal Notices	Complied with	Statutory Notices	Complied with
Housing (Structural Defects)	74	66	23	22
Ashclosets	43	38	9	8
Water Supply	7	7	10	10
W.C's.	9	9	6	6
Rats & Mice Infestation	27	27	—	—
Dustbins	14	8	—	—
Total:-	<u>174</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>46</u>

(4) SCHOOLS:

Occasional inspections of Schools in the district were made in connection with sanitary accommodation and washing and canteen facilities. No nuisances were reported.

(5) CINEMAS AND PUBLIC HALLS.

Inspections of these premises were carried out during the year and appropriate action taken where defects occurred.

(6) SMOKE ABATEMENT:

There is little appreciable smoke pollution in the district due to the semi-rural nature of the area and the scattering of Industrial Plants. Complaints of smoke nuisances from house-chimneys, burning rubbish etc., have received attention as they have occurred.

(7) PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS:

The Urban Area is divided into a number of districts for disinfection purposes. Each district is systematically surveyed in its turn by the Rodent Operative and infestations dealt with as they are discovered. No charge is made for treatment of domestic property but shops and agricultural hereditaments are treated on a cost plus supervision basis.

During the fifteen months ending 31st March, 1954, 600 dwelling houses and 1,110 shops and agricultural properties were surveyed. Out of these 100 dwelling houses and 90 shops and other premises were found to be infested by rats and/or mice and treatment was carried out accordingly.

(8) HOUSING:

It will be observed that a very great deal of time is spent on the inspection of houses for the abatement of nuisances and the investigation of living conditions.

So far as repair work is concerned, many owners consulted the Department in the modernisation of their houses and the provision of amenities. In the main those owners who are asked to carry out repair work for the

maintenance of their properties are willing to comply with the requirements stipulated, but legal action has been necessitated in the case of a few recalcitrant owners to compel the execution of necessary repairs.

It is most pleasing to note that the systematic clearance of condemned properties has been re-commenced and it is hoped that their complete clearance will accompany the further implementation of the Council's housing programme.

With a few exceptions all prospective tenants of Council properties are inspected by this Department and on the whole the standards of cleanliness have been satisfactory.

(9) FACTORIES:

During the year 81 inspections of premises subject to the provisions of the Factories Acts were made, principally in connection with sanitary accommodation. Informal action has sufficed to deal with 5 premises where defects existed.

(10) SHOPS AND FOOD PREMISES:

Numerous visits have been paid to shops and food preparing premises throughout the district. The standard of these premises is, on the whole, quite satisfactory and informal action has sufficed to deal with whatever complaints have arisen.

The following premises in the area are concerned with the manufacture and/or retailing of food:-

- 185 Shops
- 2 Stalls
- 19 Restaurants, Hotel Kitchens and Canteens
- 11 Bakehouses
- 2 Food Factories
- 14 Premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or preserved and etc., food
- 4 Premises for the manufacture and sale of ice cream
- 27 Milk Distributors

4 applications for licences to retail ice cream have been granted during the year, making the total registered for this purpose - 56.

27 applications for renewal licences to retail pasteurised milk were granted during the year. In the course of the year, action was taken on a few occasions to improve the delivery point of bottled milk in the area in accordance with the requirements of the Milk & Dairies Regulations.

A successful prosecution was obtained under these Regulations in respect of milk which had been contaminated in the course of distribution.

(11) FOOD & ETC. CONDEMNED:

During the year 351 lbs. of fresh meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption and returned to the Ministry of Food Abattoir at Bishop Auckland. 1 Ton, 1 Cwt. 3 Qrs. of miscellaneous tinned foods and loose provisions were also condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

(12) W.C. CONVERSIONS:

During the year, 203 conversions from ashclosets to the water carriage system took place. The comparative figure for 1952 was 64 conversions and there is no doubt that the increase in the number of conversions was principally due to the increased subsidy of £12 10 0d. which became payable as from February, 1953. The average cost of each conversion was in the region of £30 to £35.

(13) PUBLIC CLEANSING:

Figures are for the period 1/4/53 to 31/3/54.

Statistics:-

Number of premises cleansed	...	...	9611
Number of collections	...	...	752,596
Total Refuse Collected	...	...	30,780 tons
Yield per domestic dwelling	...	...	3.262 tons
Average Haul to Tip	...	...	2 miles
Number of Tips	...	...	7
Number of Men Employed (average)	...	...	40
Number of Vehicles Employed	...	...	15

Costs:-

	Collection	Disposal	Total
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	9 1	4 3	13 4
	£	£	£
Net cost per 1,000 population	511	240.5	751.5
Net cost per 1,000 premises	1449	683	2132

It is necessary to give many premises a twice weekly collection and this is reflected in the cost of the service.

Coal stones still prove to be a source of embarrassment for, apart from the labour involved in their clearance, the hap-hazard method of coal distribution means that certain streets are never free from these unsightly accumulations.
